



News and Events in the 5th Grade  
January 9th, 2011  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

#### **Important Dates**

Now - Jan 26	Rocket into Reading
Jan 16	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Week of Jan 30	Conferences
Feb 7	4th & 5th Grade Arts Showcase

#### **Dear Families,**

Conferences are right around the corner! You will again be meeting with only your child's homeroom teacher. If you would like to meet with a subject-area teacher, please contact that teacher to set up an additional conference. Your child's homeroom teacher will be contacting you this week regarding conference times. We will keep the same conference schedule as last semester, so please only respond if that time will not work for you this semester.

For those students who have a Lexia Reading account, it is now available at the Oak Park Public Library (Main Branch)! Students may access Lexia Reading on the homework hub machine, located in Study Room 1A in the Children's Department. We would really appreciate your assistance in providing your student with the opportunity to use Lexia at least twice per week at home.

A brief reminder that students are not allowed to have medicine at school without a doctor order, including students who are self-carrying inhalers. Please contact our school nurse, Ms. Rossi with any questions.

#### **Specials**

**Art** - Most 5th Graders have artwork on display at the Oak Park Public Library through the month of December. Come see our surrealistic self-portraits completed in the style of Renaissance artist Arcimboldo Giuseppe. The artwork is downstairs in the "Art Alcove" in the Children's Section. [www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

**Music** - The 5th Grade Specials Night is coming on Tuesday, February 7th. Please save the date! (More information to come later)

**Spanish** - Students are working with the story *Carlos y los Tres Monstruos*.  
[www.mpoleski.blogspot.com](http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com)

**Library** - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.



### Reading/Literature

Students will receive graded Unit 2 Assessments by Friday of this week. Please review, sign and return them to your child's homeroom teacher.

### TREASURES - UNIT 3

**Big Idea:** Using Your Wits

(You can use your intelligence and creativity to solve problems.)

**Theme:** Thinking it through

**Comprehension:** Sequencing and summarizing

**Vocabulary:** Homophones

### Language Arts

#### Writing Focus:

This week we will be getting back to basics. We will focus intensely on how to write a high-quality, eight sentence paragraph. Students will write and edit several paragraphs over the course of the week, and have a paragraph writing quiz on Friday.

**Grammar Focus:** Verb tenses - past tense, present tense and future tense

### Math

Today we began a new unit on geometry and measurement. This week we will focus on angles and circles. Students will use a protractor to measure angles and a compass to construct circles and polygons. Beginning this week, students will be practicing math extended responses every Friday. Extended response problems are included on the math portion of the ISAT. In an extended response problem, the student must solve a math problem and then explain what was done and why.

### Science

This week, we started a new unit on variables. We will be learning how scientists use critical thinking, careful observation and measurement to conduct experiments. Any collection of objects that is working together is called a *system*. If the parts in the system can change, those parts are called *variables*. An understanding of the idea of a variable and the ability to identify and control variables are the cornerstone of scientific experimentation. As part of this unit, all 5th grade students will be participating in a Science Fair. Students will get more information on the Science Fair requirements and a timeline later this week.

### Social Studies

Students will present their advertising posters in class early this week. We will begin our study about the various reasons groups came to the colonies, including study of the Puritans and the Pilgrims and will learn about the reasons early colonists decided to join or leave a colony.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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